mercenaries who have been trained and equipped on Pakistani soil and infiltrated into India across the border from Pakistan.

On 24th January, 1994, Government forwarded to Pakistan six non-papers containing specific and constructive proposals on Siachen, Sir Creek, a draft agreement outlining measures to be undertaken to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Control, tulbal Navigation Project, additional Confidence Building Measures and India-Pakistan Joint Commission. These proposals are aimed at resolving outstanding issues and to normalise relations between the two countries. On 19 February, 1994 Pakistan conveyed its comments and counter proposals to our non-papers. The Pakistani response is under consi deration with the Government.

Government are committed to the resolution of all differences, including issues related to Jammu & Kashmir, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations with Pakistan, in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

(e) Government have and will continue to take all measures to apprise the international community about the true facts regarding the situation in Jammu & Kashmir and its commitment to a bilateral dialogue.

Flaring of Gas

*36. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the market value of the flared-up as in India from each plant;

(b) whether Government have thought about inviting technology and capital from whatever sector it comes to prevent flaring up of gas and its utilisation for productive purposes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of gas in U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. are almost half of the prices in India; and

(d) what is the Kelkar Formula which has proposed to boost gas prices almost by 44 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The estimated value of gas flared in 1992-93 was Rs. 225 crores.

(b) the required compression and transportation facilities are being set up to utilise a part of this gas and to reduce flaring to the minimum level technically necessary.

(c) The current prices of gas in USA are higher than those in India.

(d) The Kelkar Committee appointed by the Government in 1989 had recommended that the consumer price for natural gas be based on the economic value of imported fuel oil and its producer price on the Long Run Average Cost (LRAC) of production of South Bassein Gas.

Hike in prices of Diesel and Petrol

*37. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the prices of LPG, Petrol and Diesel etc., recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for increasing the prices of such items before the Budget;

(c) whether there is any possibility of reducing the prices of these items in future; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.